



Law Department

November 20, 2019

Beryl Lipton
MuckRock News
82931-63570366@requests.muckrock.com

Re: Public Records Request Regarding Facial Recognition Software

Dear Mr. Lipton:

We are in receipt of your November 7, 2019, request as detailed below. We respond on behalf of the City of Cleveland Heights pursuant to the Ohio Public Records Act, Ohio Revised Code Section 149.43.

Concerning your request for:

Records and materials related to the solicitation, acquisition, and use of face recognition technology and related software and services.

This software or services may be provided by DataWorks, Face++, FaceFirst, Rekognition, Vigilant Solutions, and other companies. This request is applicable to these and any other company providing facial recognition services or capabilities under consideration, under contract, or in use by this agency.

Materials responsive materials include but are not limited to:

1. ALGORITHM or CODE

Any algorithm or code developed for implementation of or as part of this "software" or program. This includes any algorithm or software developed by or with, given to, used by, purchased or licensed to this agency for implementation of the above referenced program, as well as any algorithm or source code in use by this program or by which this system conducts calculations or decision making. This would include original source code, any compiled binaries (also known as executables), specification documents, spreadsheets, program scripts, and other digital materials used to calculate any data in the above program.

2. INPUT DATA

Any input training data for the "software" or related machine learning algorithms or programs.

For the aspects of the software that require an input (for example, to compute a value), please provide a copy of the five most recent sets of data that were used for input, as well as the five most recent outputs of the software, in whatever their native format is. If these inputs or outputs include exempt information, please provide all material save for specific information that is specifically exempted by law. Please also provide a description of input and output data fields that will aid in understanding the type of information that is submitted to the software and that is produced by the software.

3. AGREEMENTS and CONTRACTS

Any and all agreements related to the acquisition and use of this "software," algorithm, or program.

This includes (but is not limited to) all contracts (as well as associated amendments, attachments, and exhibits), data sharing agreements, insurance agreements, intergovernmental services agreements, licensing agreements, memorandums of understanding, and nondisclosure agreements regarding or relevant to this software or program.

Please provide a copy of any informal agreements, insurance agreements, liability waivers, and warranties that reference this technology or otherwise guide its use or the relationship between this agency, the provider or developer of the "software," or any other partner or entity that may use or access it.

4. BIDDING and PROCUREMENT

A copy of any available or relevant Requests for Expressions of Interest, Requests For Proposal (or equivalent calls for bids), responses to Requests for Expressions of Interest, letters of interest, responses to Requests for Proposal, sole source or limited source justification and approval documentation, documentation of selection, and other materials generated in the consideration and selection of the technology in question.

5. FINANCIAL and FUNDING MATERIALS

Any records related to the financing or funding of this "software," including a copy of any related funding opportunity announcements, grant applications, grantor status/progress reports, purchase orders, invoices, and other memoranda and documentation related to the payment or cost (or lack thereof) of the "software," related technology, personnel, equipment, or other elements concerning this "software" or program.

6. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS and TRAINING

All instructional materials, presentations and presentation materials (including recorded video and audio, PowerPoint files, prepared remarks, and slides formats), and other guidance on the use of "the software."

This includes any notes taken during meetings that discussed the use of the software, any explanations (whether generated internally or externally) of how

the software works, and any other document that has been used to help explain the use of "the software" to any party, including internal documentation, public relations materials, and executive summaries.

This also includes training material governing the use, sharing, or access to the "software" or any data related to or collected by the face recognition software/technology, including the legal standard that is required before using the technology.

7. PRIVACY ASSESSMENTS

A copy of any data retention guidelines or policies, data security policies, data security specifications, privacy impact assessments, security audits, or other materials evaluating or guiding the security of the "software" or the privacy of the data involved.

8. USE POLICIES

Please provide a copy of any policy directives, guidance documents, memoranda, training materials, or similar records governing the use and function of this technology for immigration, law enforcement, or any purpose, including all those related to data retention, permissible and impermissible use, and security standards. This would include materials that describe the application, function, and use of the "software," including advertisements, emails, handouts, usage policies, PowerPoint presentations, specification documents, or standard operating procedures.

9. AUDITS, REPORTS, and VALIDATION STUDIES

A copy of all reports concerning or mentioning the "software," including audit records, annual reports that mention the use of the "software," reports to legislative bodies, misuse reports, reports to oversight bodies.

This also includes all impact and validation studies. Please provide a copy of any validation studies conducted with respect to the program or with respect to any software or algorithms used in connection with the program. Please also provide a copy of any records pertaining to inquiries for the need of validation studies or discussion of potential or actual validation studies. A "validation study" in this context is any study designed to assess how accurate the program is in predicting what it is supposed to predict, used to assess whether the program may err in the direction of either under- or overestimating likelihoods or predicted outcomes, or intended to evaluate whether the software does or will produce any results that are biased or unexpected in any way.

10. COMMUNICATION and MARKETING MATERIALS

All communications or marketing materials relevant to or mentioning this "software" or program.

This includes any correspondence between any staff at this agency with any other organization or vendor relevant to the use of the aforementioned

technology or program, including records related to meetings or follow-up actions with any vendors, companies, or other private entities marketing this technology for immigration, intelligence, law enforcement, or any use. This also includes correspondence in the form of emails, email attachments, paper letters, text message, and any other form of correspondence, as well as all marketing materials - unsolicited, requested, or otherwise - acquired from vendors of this technology.

Your request is denied on the basis that it is overly broad. Under Ohio law, public records requests must describe what the requester is seeking with specificity and particularity. Requests that are overly broad may be denied. *State ex rel Zidonis v. Columbus State Cnty. Coll.*, 133 Ohio St.3d 122 (2012); *see also In State ex rel. Dehler v. Spatny*, 127 Ohio St.3d 312 (2010); *State ex rel. Zidonis v. Columbus State Cnty. College*, 2011 WL 6930336 (10th Dist. Dec. 30, 2011). Your request is overly broad and improper under Ohio law because it seeks what amounts to several complete duplications of major categories of a public office's records. The City has no obligation under the Ohio Public Records Act to duplicate its entire files to satisfy your requests. *See, e.g., In State ex rel. Dehler v. Spatny*, 127 Ohio St.3d 312 (2010); *see also State ex rel. Dillery v. Iszman*, 92 Ohio St. 3d 312 (2001) (finding overly broad a request for all records containing particular names or words); *State ex rel. Daugherty v. Mohr*, 2001-Ohio-6453 ¶¶ 32-35 (finding overly broad a request for all policies, emails, or memos regarding a particular subject). Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 149.43(B)(2), you are invited to revise your request to be more specific and to comply with Ohio law.

Please be advised that the City does not have any facial recognition technology software. We have been contacted by some or all of the companies listed above, but it is not a product we have interest in at this time.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Solis".

Amy K. Solis
Legal Secretary

cc: Tanisha R. Briley, City Manager
William R. Hanna, Director of Law
Natalie L. Thomas, Assistant Director of Law